Message Text

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FOR PGM/RC

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SUBJECT: CAMP DAVID SUMMIT COVERAGE

1. SUMMARY: THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE HAS PROMPTED A SPATE OF PESSIMISTIC COMMENT IN THE MOROCCAN PRESS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. FROM LARGELY WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, THE FRENCH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS DESCRIBE THE POLITICAL CLIMATE AT CAMP DAVID AS BEING ONE OF "GENERAL SECEPTICISM." THE ARABIC PRESS IN LENGTHY EDITORIALS APPLAUDS PRESIDENT SADAT'S ACCEPTING THE AMERICAN INVITATION TO GO TO CAMP DAVID BUT DOUBTS THAT WORTHWHILE RESULTS WILL EMERGE FROM THE PROCEEDINGS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRO-GOVERNMENT FRENCH DAILY LE MATIN IN A LONG ARTICLE EXCERPTED FROM AFP AND REUTERS PLACES THE BURDEN OF SUCCESS FOR THE CONFERENCE ON THE UNITED STATES. "BY ORGANIZING THE SUMMIT, PRESI-UNCLASSIFIED

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DENT CARTER HAS INVOLVED HIS OWN PRESTIGE AS WELL AS THAT OF HIS COUNTRY." THE ISTIQLALI DAILY L'OPINION IN A FRONT PAGE REPORT TAKEN MOSTLY FROM AFP SOURCES TREATS OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO PARIS AND POINTS OUT THAT ON AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PROBLEMS THERE "IS A CONVERGENCE OF EGYPTIAN AND FRENCH POINTS OF VIEW." ON THE CAMP DAVID MEETING, MR. SADAT

CHARACTERIZES PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVE AS "COURAGEOUS." THE PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY AL MAGHRIB DRAWING ON AFP AND REUTERS SEES THE CONFERENCE AS "THE SUMMIT OF THE LAST CHANCE," FRAUGHT WITH POLITICAL RISKS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS YET EARNING--DESPITE THESE RISKS--THE SUPPORT OF SAUDI ARABIA.

3. IN AN UNSIGNED COMMENTARY, THE ARABIC SOCILAIST DAILY AL MUHARRIR PREDICTS "NO DECISIVE OUTCOME AT CAMP DAVID" BUT VIEWS THE ACTIVE AMERICAN PARTICI-PATION AS A CONCILIATORY GESTURE, TO MR. SADAT WHO HAD PROMISED AT THE OAU KHARTOUM MEETING" "NOT TO RESUME CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL." AL ALAM, THE ISTIQLALI ARABIC PAPER, BELIEVES "EVEN PRESIDENT CARTER HOLDS LITTLE HOPE FOR THE COMPLETE SUCCESS" OF THE CONFERENCE. PRO-GOVERNMENT AL MITHAQ AL WATANI FIRST PRAISES "THE WHITE HOUSE FOR SPONSORING THE MEETING" AND THEN CONCLUDES THAT ITS "RESULTS WHETHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE WILL BE PROCLAIMED PUBLICLY." FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR RAMZ ABDELHAMID IN THE COMMUNIST DAILY AL BAYANE CRITICIZES PRESIDENT SADAT AND CAUTIONS "THAT THE EGYPTIAN LEADER HAS ALWAYS BEEN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT MOST WHITE HOUSE PLANS, INCLUDING SEVERAL THAT PREDATE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION."RENTSCHLER

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